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CLIENT: Rockwell International

STATION: KMGH Ch. 7

PROGRAM: Live on Seven

TIME: 5:05 PM

DATE: 4/28/83

CITY: Denver

REPORTER KRIS LONG: "Is half of Broomfield's water supply in jeopardy from radioactive contamination? That is the question that three scientists are now trying to answer by testing sediment samples from the Great Western Reservoir. Carol Bogart has more on this."

REPORTER CAROL BOGART: "Great Western Reservoir is only about a mile and a half from the Nuclear Weapons Arsenal at Rocky Flats. Ten years ago, the EPA took sediment samplings and found that parts of the Reservoir had low levels of plutonium that were above background levels from normal fall out."

JAN CARLSON, BROOMFIELD CHIEF CHEMIST: "The water is analyzed on a weekly basis by the city, by the Colorado Department of Health and also by Rockwell. And those levels have all been well below all safe drinking water limits and you know it's comparable to all the water for other cities. So, no I don't feel there's a public health hazard."

CAROL BOGART: "Carlson says as long as the plutonium stays trapped in the sediment, it poses no danger to the drinking water. But, Broomfield is thinking about expanding the Reservoir. Should the be stirred up, the water could be contaminated. And, that's the reason for the current testing."

If the plutonium levels in the Reservoir are excessive, the Reservoir could have to be dredged and the contaminated soil disposed of before any expansion could begin.

Rockwell International, the Company that operates Rocky Flats will be testing the sediment samples too as will the Colorado Department of Health. Broomfield's results from an EPA approved lab should be out by August. If a clean up is needed, the state says it won't get involved. Carlson says Broomfield would negotiate with Rockwell about paying for dredging and disposal.

Near Broomfield, Carol Bogart for Live on Seven."

REPORTER KRIS LONG: "And Carol tells us that the Great Western Reservoir is not the only body of water where samples will be taken. Rockwell personnel plan to test Stanly Lake and selected smaller ponds and lakes within a fifty mile radius of Rocky Flats."

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